

## HISTORY OF BAY PINES NATIONAL CEMETERY

On March 15, 1933, the Bay Pines Cemetery was dedicated as a burial ground for those who died in the Bay Pines VA hospital and domiciliary. The site opened with 21 acres. By 1964, all available gravesites were used. A survey conducted in 1984 reported that another 4,000 gravesites could be gained through simple modifications and identified that some of the land not suitable for in-ground burials could be used for storage of cremated remains.

The cemetery was transferred to the National Cemetery System on May 28, 1984, and reopened for interments on July 2, 1984. By 1987, the only remaining gravesites were those for cremated remains and gravesites set aside for surviving spouses of those already interred. Bay Pines National Cemetery averages 1,000 burials a year and there are more than 32,000 interments of Veterans from the Indian War to present day.

In 1937, a large monument constructed of pink Etowah marble was dedicated to "the memory of those who served their country." This monument continues to stand guard at the entrance of the cemetery grounds. A polished granite bench, dedicated to the memory of World War I Veterans, sits just outside the cemetery entrance facing the POW/MIA monument. In 1976, a maple tree was planted in Section 53 to commemorate the bicentennial of our country's Declaration of Independence. In 1995, AMVETS, in association with Mrs. Edna Koch Klauser, dedicated the carillon as a "living memorial to America's Veterans who served their country honorably for the cause of Freedom."



*Note: This document was printed on 5/16/2014 and is subject to change without notice.*

## Bay Pines VA Memorial Day Ceremony

*Honoring those who gave all*



Bay Pines National Cemetery | May 26, 2014 | 10:00 a.m.

[www.baypines.va.gov](http://www.baypines.va.gov) | [www.facebook.com/vabaypines](https://www.facebook.com/vabaypines) 

\*please stand if able

# Order of Events

Call to Assembly	Holly Gregory Anchor, Bay News 9	Remarks	Suzanne M. Klinker Director, Bay Pines VAHCS
Silent Drill Performance	Clearwater High School JROTC	Remarks	U.S. Representative David W. Jolly 13th Congressional District of Florida
Military Medley	Bay Pines VAHCS Medical Media Services	Keynote Speaker	Annette Kirk American Gold Star Mothers (AGM)
Presentation of Colors*	Amputee Veterans of America Support Team (AVAST)	Musical Performance	Aaliyah Kew Bay Pines VAHCS U.S. Air Force Veteran
Pledge of Allegiance *	Bob Fair AMVETS	Placement of Ceremonial Wreath	Annette Kirk accompanied by Gibbs High School JROTC Cadets
National Anthem *	Athena Delgado St. Petersburg VA Regional Office	Benediction*	Chaplain Francis Malloy
Invocation*	Chaplain Francis Malloy Chaplain Service, Bay Pines VAHCS	21-Gun Salute*	Gibbs High School JROTC
Remarks	Maurice Roan Assistant Director, Florida National Cemetery	Taps*	Roy Stewart American Legion Post 273
Remarks	Kerrie Witty Director, St. Petersburg VA Regional Office	Dismissal*	Holly Gregory



## Special thank you to:

American Gold Star Mothers, AMVETS, American Legion Department of Florida, the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System  
Voluntary Service Committee and other generous donors for supporting this event.  
Girl Scouts and community volunteers for placing American flags

